

**CLAIMS**

1. A method for grading a security of a publicly traded company, comprising the steps of:

- a. evaluating the financial, business performance of the company against a pre-determined set of business performance criteria;
- b. evaluating the market performance of the security against pre-determined security performance criteria; and
- c. assigning to the security a grade based upon the evaluated performances, using predetermined criteria.

2. A method for grading a security of a publicly traded company, comprising the steps of, at intervals:

- a. evaluating the financial, business performance of the company against a pre-determined set of business performance criteria;
- b. evaluating the market performance of the security against pre-determined security performance criteria;
- c. assigning to the security a first grade based upon the evaluated performances, using predetermined criteria; and
- d. assigning to the security a second grade based upon a history over time of assigned first grades.

3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the security is a stock.

4. A system for grading a security of a publicly traded company, comprising:

- a. means for receiving an identification of a security for which a grade is requested;
- b. means, responsive to the identification, for evaluating the financial, business performance of the company against a pre-determined set of business performance criteria;
- c. means, also responsive to the identification, for evaluating the market performance of the security against pre-determined security performance criteria; and

- d. means for assigning to the security a grade based upon the evaluated performances, using predetermined criteria.

5. A system for grading a security of a publicly traded company, comprising:

- 5 a. means for evaluating, at intervals, the financial, business performance of the company against a pre-determined set of business performance criteria;
- b. means for evaluating, at intervals, the market performance of the security against pre-determined security performance criteria;
- 10 c. means for assigning to the security, at each of said intervals, a first grade based upon the evaluated performances, using predetermined criteria; and
- d. means for assigning to the security a second grade based upon a history over time of assigned first grades.

15 6. The system of claim 4 or claim 5 wherein the security is a stock.

Approved